

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 20 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended and Claim 19 is cancelled without prejudice by the present amendment.

The Notice of Allowance of October 3, 2005, indicated that Claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Because six references (which are filed herewith with an Information Disclosure Statement) have been brought to the attention of the Applicants in corresponding applications filed in other countries, Applicants file this amendment with a Request for Continued Examination to better define the claimed invention over the six references.

More specifically, independent Claim 1 is amended to include the features of Claim 19 and Claim 19 is thus cancelled. Also, independent Claim 1 is amended to recite that at least one of the semiconductor elements is a power semiconductor element. No new matter has been added.

The six references filed herewith have been considered and Applicants respectfully submit that none of those references teaches or suggests the features added to Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the references filed herewith.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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